



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 02/18/2010

Fiscal Resources Task Group - Vision 2020
 Minutes of Meeting 2/18/10
 Jefferson Cutter House

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), Peter Lloyd-Evans, Charlie Hayes, Pete Howard (Secretary)

PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES/QUICKIES

- Buck slip status: A pink 1/3 page document was made up by the Recycling Committee to urge residents to separate trash from recyclables while explaining the meaning of Single Stream Recycling. This document was inserted in every excise tax bill, a procedure offered by the Treasurer in our meeting with him last fall.

- Health care budget revision status: The Manager's budget shows the appropriations making up this sub budget somewhat more clearly than in previous years. Alan Jones who builds the Excel files that build part of the Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting, is open to an improved presentation. If we want to influence it, he should have input as soon as possible.

- Trust fund Treasurer letter of thanks: Pete to draft.

- Water/Sewer billing grace period. The BoS would have to approve. Result would be a one time revenue increase. After discussion decided to table and reconsider in the fall.

- Online payment/online fee issue fincom letter - After discussion decided to table until quarterly water/sewer payments are instigated

- V2020 Census Insert Survey FRTG responsible for the kind of question on the survey which are designed to both educate residents on the dire budget choices facing the Town and to solicit their preferences. The number of returns is over 3500, very heavy, and approaching 20% of the residences. There seems to be no big appetite for reduction in services or increases in revenues though for most questions this opinion is not overwhelming.

- My tax dollars - Peter has FinCom spread sheet. He aims to craft an update for FY10 that will be transparently traceable to the FinCm report &, if necessary, other public documents.

- AFD Staffing Analysis (day/night call analysis) - Table. Fire Chief will oppose. Manager can make a significant staffing cut based on the new Quint, a combined engine & ladder.

- SOTTA -The plan proposed by Pete to institutionalize this activity seems to be working. The new Article 2 is in the draft warrant. The next BoS chair, Diane Mahon, said she is willing to give an address under this article. She may send her draft out for comment.

Pete to draft a letter to Art Holmes of Shawsheen Tech thanking him for printing the invitations each year & explaining why we don't need them any more.

REPORTS

- Retrospective 5yr Report -

- Still need to perform final vetting of the numbers Gordon

- Pete & Peter willing to revise, as discussed before, Gordon's excellent initial draft

FUTURE

- Position papers

- Membership recruitment plan/effort
- Additional ideas from the membership
- Assessor website (description of assessment process)
- Regionalization study (for FY10-FY11) - As currently envisioned would represent a broad effort to collect information on possible cost savings from combining some town functions with other communities. It might include a review of existing regionalization efforts, interviews with Town leaders, study of regionalization agreements elsewhere in MA and US. Goal would be to report to 2011 Town Mtg.

NEXT MEETINGS - All scheduled for Third Thursday at 7:30 PM
3/18 Jefferson Cutter House Meeting Room
4/15 Town Hall Hearing Room,
5/20 Town Hall Hearing Room